



The County Commuter

Commuter Assistance Program

Fall 2005

In this issue:

New Metrolink Station Opens Soon!	2
OCTA Rewards Bus & Train Riders!	2
91 Express Lanes	2
Metrolink Quarterly Drawing Winner	3
Overview of Rideshare Programs	3

Annual Transportation Survey

Each year, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) requires the County of Orange to conduct a survey of our employees' commuting patterns. Once again, we will be conducting this survey on-line for the majority of the County's departments/agencies. For those employees lacking Internet access, a paper version of the survey will be made available.

Be sure to look for your e-mail message with a link to the annual transportation survey.

This year, our goal is to achieve a 100% response rate from all employees. To help with that, when you submit a survey, your name will automatically be entered in a drawing to win gift certificates to ESPN Zone, MainPlace Mall, and more!

Good luck and thanks in advance for completing the annual transportation survey!

Rideshare Week Prize—County Employee

Congratulations to Cary Clevenger, Health Care Agency. He participated in California Rideshare Week's special promotional campaign, sponsored by OCTA. Rideshare Week is an annual campaign aimed at convincing solo commuters to try ridesharing – even for just one day.

The County of Orange hosted special events during Rideshare Week, and helped spread the word about the benefits of sharing the ride.

Special thanks go out to all of our on-site rideshare coordinators who went above and beyond in creating fun and innovative ways to promote Rideshare Week.



Hall of Administration's Rideshare Week Display

Special points of interest:

- More than 3 million people rode Orange County Metrolink trains in 2004.
- Estimated travel times are now being posted on electronic freeway signs. For details click [here](#).



New Metrolink Station Opens Soon!

The new Buena Park Metrolink Station is closer to becoming reality! The station's construction is scheduled to begin this fall. The new station will have convenient boarding platforms, a pedestrian overpass with an elevator and stairs, a distinctive clock tower and parking for over 300 vehicles. Completion is expected by mid-2006.

For more information on Metrolink schedules and routes currently serving Orange County, click [here](#).

New Park & Ride Lot Opens

On September 1st, a new Park and Ride lot opened in Temecula at the United Methodist Church located at 42690 Margarita Road. The lot has designated signs and provides space for 56 vehicles. For more information, click [here](#).

OCTA Rewards Bus & Train Riders!

With your OCTA or Metrolink pass and the new OCTA *Destination Discount Guide*, you'll discover something new right in your own backyard – and save money at the same time.

OCTA's *Destination and Discount Guide*, "Be There," is filled with great deals all around Orange County. The Guide includes special discounts at more than 85 entertainment, shopping, sports, recreation, and dining establishments. All you have to do is show your valid OCTA or Metrolink pass!

Pick up a copy of the Guide on any OCTA bus, Orange County Metrolink train or click

[here](#) to view the Guide.

County of Orange employees interested in trying the bus for the first time can sign up for the "Try The Bus On Us" program. You'll receive a complimentary one-day OCTA bus pass along with details on how to get a personalized transit itinerary.

If you decide to keep riding the bus, you may sign up for the Commuter Choice Program to purchase the annual bus pass, and we'll pay for the first month's fare.

Click [here](#) for the Voluntary Payroll Deduction Form.



91 Express Lanes

1-800-600-9191 or
www.91expresslanes.com

Wish you had a smooth ride on the Riverside Freeway rather than sitting in bumper-to-bumper gridlock? Well, you can do something about it – open a 91 Express Lanes account, and enjoy a faster commute without the worry of traffic.

And if you want to save even more money, the "Three-Ride-Free" program lets commuters of three or more ride for free or half-price.

The 91 Express Lanes FasTrak transponder is your key. It's easy, convenient and there's no need to stop to pay tolls. The FasTrak electronic toll system will automatically deduct the toll from your prepaid account while you are driving. It's that simple. You control how much you pay, because tolls vary depending on the time of day and direction of travel.





For schedules and fares visit
www.metrolinktrains.com

Metrolink Quarterly Drawing Winner

Each quarter as part of the "Get Into Training" program, we award a \$100 transit voucher to a Metrolink rider who has submitted a Quarterly Drawing application for the final part of the program.

*Congratulations to Susie Moore,
 Social Services Agency--this
 quarter's winner!*

Susie enrolled in the Get Into Training program as a current Metrolink rider in July of 2000. She commutes from the Riverside La Sierra station to the Anaheim Canyon station.

Susie has recently enrolled in the new Commuter Choice program available to all County of Orange employees. She now enjoys the convenience of purchasing her monthly pass through the payroll deduction process. In addition, Susie's taxable income is reduced by that amount up to \$105 per month.

If you're interested in knowing more about the Commuter Choice program, or to download a Voluntary Payroll Deduction Authorization form, [click here](#). You can also call the Commuter Assistance Message Center at 714/834-4068.

Overview of Rideshare Programs

Commuter Benefits

Employees can enroll in the [Commuter Choice Program](#) to purchase Metrolink, OCTA bus, and vanpool "tickets" through the convenience of monthly payroll deductions. By doing so, their taxable income is reduced by that amount up to \$105 per month. The [Commuter Club](#) award program is for employees that commit to rideshare at least once a week to receive discounts from local merchants, an annual thank you gift and to participate in quarterly drawings for various gift certificates. Employees can get an [Emergency Ride Home](#) via a County vehicle or the pre-selected taxi service if an emergency arises on a day that they rideshare.

Incentives to Try Ridesharing

The [Try the Bus On Us](#) program is available to employees that want to try using the OCTA bus service to commute to work. The [Get Into Training](#) program is available to employees that want to try riding the train to work. A program called [It's a Good Day to Vanpool](#) is for employees that start a new vanpool or join an existing vanpool.

How to Reach Us

Employees can send an e-mail to rideshare@ocgov.com or leave a message at 714/834-4068. You can also send information to Rideshare Office, Bldg. 10, 1st Floor at the Civic Center.

Commuter Assistance Program

County of Orange
 CEO/Employee Relations
 10 Civic Center Plaza
 Santa Ana, CA 92701
 714-834-4068
 714-834-5520 FAX
rideshare@ocgov.com
www.oc.ca.gov/hr/rideshare

The County Commuter Newsletter is published by the Commuter Assistance Program Office managed by the CEO/Employee Relations. Our mission is to distribute commuter information to all County of Orange employees so that they can make informed decisions about how they travel to work. For more information about the Commuter Assistance Program, please go to the web site.